

Garza, 2nd Vice President; Stefani Montiel, 3rd Vice President; Sasha Sullivan, Secretary; Steve Roth; and Gibby Escobedo, Parliamentarian. Additionally, the Tejano Academy would not have been realized without the hard work, unwavering commitment and long hours persevered by Executive Director, Chayo Zaldivar. With this great team's continued hard work, the Tejano Academy is filling an important void in the Tejano Music Industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the many achievements and services provided by the Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians. Please join me in honoring the Tejano Academy on September 19, 2004 for their 1st Annual Awards Presentation and Banquet.

THE KANSAS-PARAGUAY PARTNERSHIP

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 1, 2004 a devastating fire engulfed the Ycuá Bolaños supermarket in Asunción, Paraguay, resulting in 399 deaths and many more injuries. In light of the long-standing relationship between the State of Kansas and Paraguay, on behalf of the citizens of Kansas' Third Congressional District, and on behalf of all Kansans, I wish to express our deep condolences to the citizens of Paraguay after this time of national tragedy.

The Kansas Paraguay Partnership was started 36 years ago as part of the international Partners of the Americas, headquartered in Washington, D.C., in which states in the United States are paired with countries or regions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The cross cultural pairing between Paraguay and Kansas is one of 60 partnerships throughout the Americas whose linkages provide assistance when help is needed.

The relief effort in the aftermath of the fire was directed and carried out by volunteers from Partners of the Americas' Paraguayan chapter with assistance from its counterpart chapter here in Kansas. All firemen in Paraguay are volunteers and depend to a great extent on donated equipment. Efforts are currently underway in both Paraguay and Kansas to replace the fire equipment which was lost in fighting the fire.

Partners of the Americas is today one of the largest private sector networks of volunteers in the Western Hemisphere. It mobilizes citizens to serve as a grassroots, people-to-people catalyst for change. Volunteer initiatives have resulted in a rich array of programs, such as the Kansas-Paraguay efforts to strengthen citizen participation and improve farming operations, as well as increasing understanding through cultural and educational exchanges. This unique, twofold approach has turned thousands of ideas into creative action across borders.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all members of this House join with me in sharing our support with the people of Paraguay during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE D.J. DAVIS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Missouri State Representative D.J. Davis is retiring at the end of the year. He has served the people of the 122nd district since 1996.

A graduate of North Andrew High School in Rosendale, Missouri, Representative Davis graduated with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from Northwest Missouri State University in 1962 and a master's degree in secondary administration in 1970. Before serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, Representative Davis worked in the field of education for more than 30 years. He retired as the principal of Odessa High School in Odessa, Missouri.

As an educator, Representative Davis was recognized for his contributions to the field. He received the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals Silver Service Award in 1991 for 25 years as a secondary school principal. Additionally, he received awards from the Lafayette County Farm Bureau, the Mighty MO 4-H Club, the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education and the AARP.

Mr. Speaker, whether as an educator or a legislator, Representative Davis has worked on behalf of others and is truly a role model for young Missourians. He has made important contributions to both fields. I know my fellow Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his many years of service and in wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY LOAN ABUSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Emergency Loan Abuse Prevention Act of 2004, along with my colleagues, Representatives VAN HOLLEN and GEORGE MILLER. Through a loophole in the Higher Education Act, nearly \$1 billion in special student loan subsidies will be paid by the Federal government to lenders this year, rather than used for financial aid for students. This bill closes this loophole and requires the savings to be used to increase the maximum Pell grant.

This antiquated subsidy results from an obscure provision in the Higher Education Act and its regulations which provide lenders a 9.5 percent rate of return on certain student loans. This rate of return is excessive when you consider that lenders are guaranteed approximately a 3.5 percent rate of return on other student loans.

The 9.5 percent guarantee was established in the high interest rate year of 1980. Congress intended for it to phase out of existence beginning in 1993. But through a loophole, the guarantee has continued. Both the New York Times and the L.A. Times have reported on

this loophole. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued a report which calls for the Department of Education to correct its regulations on this matter—an action the Bush Department of Education is refusing to take.

This special subsidy has caused a lost financial opportunity for students. Students are bearing the brunt of rising college costs and shrinking grant aid. This bill provides an opportunity to correct this problem.

Despite this issue being addressed in the last Presidential Budget, the recent reaction by the Bush Administration has been inaction and silence. Rather than eliminate the use of this provision through immediate regulation, the Bush Administration has let this special subsidy triple in the past 3 years. In FY 2001, the 9.5 percent guarantee cost American taxpayers approximately \$200 million. Now GAO and others have estimated that this cost is projected to be nearly five times greater this fiscal year. The GAO report estimates that on top of this year's near billion dollar cost, growth in the special subsidy will cost an additional \$2.8 billion in future years, if not halted immediately.

This bill closes the loophole which the Bush Department of Education and this Republican Congress has permitted to go unchecked. The amendment ends this special subsidy and expends the savings to increase the maximum Pell grant for needy students.

I urge Members to join me and others in supporting this legislation.

THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SALUTES CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week. This marks the 217th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.